

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 remain in this application. Applicants note with appreciation that claims 19-26 stand allowed and that claims 2 and 10-16 are indicated as allowable in independent form. However, Applicants believe that the remaining claims are also in condition for allowance and thus, have not amended the claims.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 17 and 18 were rejected as anticipated by Erdogan et al. (US 6,809,859). Claims 6 and 9 were rejected as obvious over Erdogan in view of Salb. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Inter alia, claim 1 requires "wherein the excitation filter unit has an ultraviolet cutoff filter formed on a base plate." Erdogan discloses an optical filter. In Fig. 6, the spectral transmittance characteristics of the excitation filter 204 are shown. As described in column 7, lines 7-13, the excitation filter 204 has the structure of the filter 300 shown in Fig. 3. The filter 300 is composed of a long-wave-pass filter 302, a colored glass substrate 306, and a short-wave pass filter 308. Nowhere does one see an ultraviolet cutoff filter, let alone one formed on a base plate.

In Fig. 5, the optical density vs. wavelength is plotted regarding the long-wave-pass filter 302, the colored glass substrate 306 and the short-wave-pass filter 308. In the graph, the plot 502 represents the characteristics of the long-wave-pass filter 302 and the plot 504 represents the characteristics of the colored glass substrate 306. The plot 502 and the plot 504 show large values of optical density on the short-wavelength side.

Comparing Fig. 5 with Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, it can be seen that a high optical density means a low transmission. That is, the plot 502 and the plot 504, or the spectral transmission characteristics of the long-wave-pass filter 302 and the colored glass substrate 306 show low transmission on the short-wavelength side.

Considering that the excitation filter 204, the spectral transmission characteristic of which is shown in Fig. 6, has the structure of filter 300 shown in Fig. 3, and that the spectral optical

density of the filter 300 shown in Fig. 3 is presented in Fig. 5, it can be deduced that the small value of transmission of the excitation filter 204 (plot 600) is due to the long-wave-pass filter 302 and the colored glass substrate 306 not due to an ultraviolet cutoff filter.

Therefore, because an ultraviolet cutoff filter is not disclosed in the structure of the filter 300 shown in Fig. 3, Applicant cannot agree with the Examiner's allegation that the excitation filter 204 (plot 600) includes an ultraviolet cutoff filter. This continues to be true even considering Fig. 14. Fig. 14 of Erdogan et al. shows that a narrow band pass filter 1402 and a short-wave-pass filter 1408 are formed on an ultraviolet light absorption glass substrate 1406. Of these filters, the narrow band pass filter 1402 cannot be considered to supply the claimed ultraviolet cutoff filter, as discussed above.

Also, it must be kept in mind that claim 1 recites that the excitation filter unit have an ultraviolet cutoff filter formed on a base plate. Thus, it is apparent that the ultra violet filter and the base plate are different members as claimed. In contrast, the ultraviolet light absorption glass substrate 1406 disclosed in Fig. 14 of Erdogan et al. is a single member forming a base plate. Therefore, Erdogan et al. fail to disclose an ultraviolet cutoff filter and a base plate constructed separately from each other where the ultraviolet cutoff filter is formed on the base plate as claim 1 requires.

For the reasons set forth above, i.e., that the reference does not disclose an excitation filter unit with an ultraviolet cutoff filter formed on a base plate, claim 1 is not anticipated by or obvious from Erdogan et al. and thus is allowable. The remaining rejected claims 3-9, 17 and 18, which depend from claim 1, also are allowable. Nothing in Salb makes up for the deficiency in Erdogan.

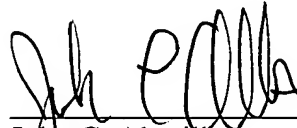
Thus, entry of this Amendment and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requested, after reviewing this response to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues in this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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